

Applicant(s): Oliver Price et al.
U.S.S.N.: 10/521,245

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 25, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 10 and 12-14 are amended. Claim 11 is canceled. (Claim 21 was canceled by way of the Preliminary Amendment.) Claims 1-9 and 18-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 10 and 12-17 are before the Examiner, of which claim 10 is in independent form.

Election/Restriction

In the Office Action, the Examiner made final the restriction of Species 2 and 3. Applicants respectfully disagree that the Examiner would be required to search different mountings. As pointed out to the Examiner in Applicants' earlier communication, the Species are substantially the same except that the spherical bearing and the bearing seat are mounted on opposite support members. Reference may be made to FIGS. 4 and 6 of Applicants' disclosure. Also attached for the Examiner's consideration are two brochures showing the similar construction of Applicants' support. The brochure entitled "Zorro" illustrates a support having a spherical bearing mounted to the monitor and a strap to the fixed arm as shown in FIG. 4 of Applicants' disclosure. The other brochure entitled "Wishbone Rotation" illustrates a support having the spherical bearing mounted to the arm and the strap to the load, e.g., a monitor, as shown in FIG. 6 of Applicants' disclosure. The similarities and common elements between the two designs are apparent.

Reconsideration of the restriction of Species 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Applicants have amended claims 12 and 13 to make clear which "support member" is specifically referred to in the claims. Reconsideration of the objection to claims 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bosson (U.S. Patent No. 6,863,252).

As amended, claim 10 is directed to a support for an electrical display device including a pair of support members connected by a universal joint comprising a part spherical bearing immovably mounted on one support member and received within a bearing seat pivotally mounted to the other support member to enable relative movement between the bearing and the bearing seat in any direction and, between the bearing seat and the other support member about a pivot axis, wherein ***the bearing seat comprises a looped element that supports, contacts and partially encircles the bearing, the looped element being pivotally mounted to said other support member.***

The Examiner asserts that Bosson discloses a support as claimed, including the added loop element. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Bosson does not disclose a “part-spherical bearing” as set forth in claim 10. On the contrary, the bearing 83 is “disc-shaped” (*see* Bosson, column 4, line 33 and Figures 2 and 3). The Examiner incorrectly equates Bosson’s disc-shaped bearing to Applicants’ spherical bearing by suggesting that “if the sides are rounded it would be spherical.” Specifically, the sides of Bosson’s bearing 83 are cylindrical and are not curved in shape. The Examiner appears to be reading in a feature into Bosson’s support that is not present in the disclosure.

Further, the Examiner asserts that Bosson’s component 61 is the “bearing seat.” However, in Bosson, the bearing seat is provided by the two-shell halves 70 that close over the bearing 83 and are connected through the bearing 83 by a bolt 77 so that the bearing can rotate relative to the shell halves about the longitudinal axis of the bolt (*see* Bosson, column 4, lines 43 to 49). The shell halves each have upper and lower pivot pin halves that combine when fitted over the bearing 83 and locate in openings 62 in the yoke section 61 (*see* Figure 3). The yoke 61 is not a bearing seat because the bearing 83 is at all times spaced from the yoke 61 as can most clearly be seen in Figures 10 and 11 of

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Bosson. The only connection is between the pivot pin halves and the openings 62. The bearing 83 is clearly not seated in the yoke 61.

The Examiner also asserts that Bosson shows the bearing received within the bearing seat and pivotally mounted to the support member to enable relative movement between the bearing and the bearing seat in any direction. However, the only movement of the bearing 83 relative to the yoke 61 in Bosson is about the axis extending through the pivot pin halves 71, 72. Bosson's support can rotate in only one direction. Therefore, movement in any direction between the bearing and bearing seat is not possible.

And finally, Bosson fails to disclose, show or suggest the bearing seat comprising a looped element that supports, contacts and partially encircles the bearing. As discussed above, Bosson teaches no contact between the yoke 61 and the bearing 83.

For the reasons set forth herein, amended claim 10 is submitted as being patentable over the references of record, including Bosson. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-17, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 10, are submitted as being patentable for the same reasons provided for claim 10.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Preliminary Amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, or otherwise has any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Keith F. Noe/
Keith F. Noe, Esq. (Reg. No. 34,686)
LOWRIE, LANDO & ANASTASI, LLP
Riverfront Office Park
One Main Street
Cambridge, MA 02142
Tel.: (617) 395-7039
Fax: (617) 395-7070
Attorney for Applicants

Encl.

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